

REMARKS

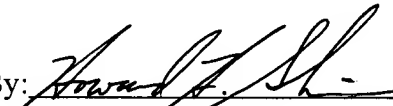
Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

The examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11-20, 22-30 and 32-42 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Bertin et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,600,638) in view of Fichou et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,522). The applicant has amended the independent claims to include the limitations of the objected, but otherwise allowed claims. The rejections should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The above amendments to the specification and claims do not add new matter or raise new issues; the applicant respectfully requests the amendments be entered. In view of the above claim amendments, the rejections under 35 USC §103 should be withdrawn. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned over the telephone in order to resolve any remaining issues that may prevent the immediate allowance of the present application.

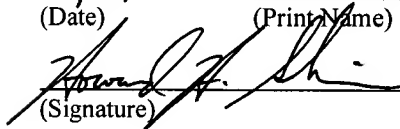
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

11/11/04 Howard H. Sheerin
(Date) (Print Name)


(Signature)